Memo on The Watergate Caper 7/16/72 Harold Weisberg

These notes, hunches and analyses will not be organized. I'll merely record a number of things that have come to mind during the past several days when I've been owrking on other things. I won't have time to organize or correct typos because of the work accumulation.

One-way streets in DC have been changed recently. Whether or not 21 st NW now runs sputh is not essential to the suggestion that follows. If it does, then the suggestion can be taken as stronger. Those arrested had a city map with a route from the Watergate to 20 and Mass Ave carefully marked. At this point on any map the space between Mass Ave and P St must be small, because at this point both become part of Dupont Circle. I suggest that the map showed the easiest route to the home of Douglas Caddy, 2121 P St., NW. Tjose following the map would I presume follow New Hampshire to 20, turn left on 20 to P, left again to 2121 and would be directly in front of his apt. Caddy admits having been busily engaged in this matter beginning at midnight, not after the 2:30 a.m. arrest.

Where Hunt was remains a mystery. One thing is obvious: his wife can't alibi. She was abroad. There has been nothing to indicate an "I 2as home in bed" alibi, the most obvipus. Also obvious is its absence. Few people are not at 2:30 a.m. Reporting on what was found in Hunts EOB desk includes a transceiver radio, frequencies unspecified, but not the normal equipment of the office of a consultant, even to a dirty-works assistant to a dirty-works President. And a similar bug, one like those found on the arrested.

News accounts give two and three as the number of such transceivers found on the arrested. The frequencies, according to Larry O'Briend, are those assigned the Republicans and the sets those licensed to McCord for Republican temporary use. One version estimates the cost at about $1600 each, not toys of the kind kids play Buck Rogers with, as one inspired story had it. In short, such equipment was not needed for internal communications, as with the initially-reported sixth man within the complex, but was dependable for reaching into either the building in which Hunt's office was or to Caddy's apt.

Digression on this sixth man and possible explanation of the seeming stupidity -so described by the police and accepted by the press-on the retaping of the door latches. If there was a roll of such tape found with the five arrested, I do not recall it from the news accounts. However, one was found in the pair of rooms rented. From what I know of these kind of Cuban, it is quite possible that one assumed another had not performed his assigned task. I suggest the possibility that on returning from the Demo offices, the there-unneeded or elsewhere needed man, find the latches not immobilized, decided it was an oversight, not that a guard had removed the tape, and reapplied the tape himself, this accounting for the find of the roll not at the scene but at the room.

There has been entirely too much nonsense about the out-of-style equipment, none of it based on observation by experts and all inconsistent with what was seen by them. The communications equipment was described as sophisticated and expensive. Equipment used by those of any competence is in their opinion adequate for the purpose. Until the purpose is lnown, there is no valid way of passing judgement on the suitability of the equipment. However, by every account, the small bugs were more than adequate for reaching from Demo HQ to the rented rooms, and at least one was equipped with a rather sensitive voice-activated mike. I have two tape recorders that come equipped with voice-activation. They were used for dictation by me and designed for ordinary tape-recorder uses by the mfr. It takes a lot more than this bug mike required to activate them. The news account is of the ticking of a wtach being enough. I rather imagine that would render ineffecutal the value of voice-activation, to keep the bug silent and the batteries undrained when the pffices were not in use if this account is accurate. If it is not accurate, then the purpose of voice activation is clear, save batteries. And all accounts agree that three of the smaller bugs would have given a dependable signal to the rented rooms.

Ridicule of the larger one seems to have no basis except in the concept that if it isn't mineraturized it is dated. Actually, the greater the mineraturization, in general, the greater the possibility of technical failure. Perhaps it is not a good example, but of my three TV set, those that produce a better picture from a distance or whenre the incoming signal is poor are the two oldest, on so old it doesn't have UHF. The other was one of the first beach-type portables. Until the engineering showed how costs could be reduced by eliminating stages form the pre-rectification of signal part of the set, it was not safe

to chisel, so the r.f. ends of the two older sets, both valueless on the market today, are better and give me a better picture in this fringe area. So, the fact that there was a small but by today's standrads relatively-large printed-circuit xmitter found is not cause for laughter, as was immediately inspired, but for wonder about its purpose. Likewise, the use of never-accurately-described regular batteries instead of the mineratures available today is anything but Keystone Cops stuff. The last infinitely longer. It appears that six 1 1/2 volt batteries were in series, giving 9 volts. Unless they were outdated, dime-store stuff, they would seem to be capable of prividing more juice for more time than the more pupular batteries used by professional buggers, all of whom almost invariably deal with short distances and exceedingly tiny equipment. But for longer distances, still short in usual communications, the martini-olive concept is impossible. It does require something larger. With an entire ceiler in which to deposit it, why worry about mineraturization and attendant problems, of exhausted batteries? There is no need. Thus, where one of the tinier models so loved by the pros would do for short-dustance interception, as for from the offices to the room,s it would hardly do for a distance to the Caddy apartment or any other, even nearby, central working point on whatever the project was. There is also the unlikelihood that all of this was not to have been accompanied by taping. Now the rooms are cleaned by maids, during the day, the same time the offices are occupied, the same time the bugging could serve a purpose. So, it is unlikely that even nuts would expect the prominent display of tape recorders and receivers to go without comment or reporting to management, hence the need for a station outside the complex.

It doesn't make sense from what has been reported that the operation detected was for the removal of bugs. Nor does one carry cameras for so simple a thing or need so many men. In fact, there is no need for the removal of bugs. If they are detected after their need is over, they have an added psychological value if they are found, war-of-nerves stuff. There has as yet been no explanation of the printed-circuit thing that was found. It may be farount, but I suggest it is possible that it was made as a relaying device, that is, both a receiver and a transmitter, picking up the output of the small bugs and relaying it a greater distance than the small ones could. Without something like this there has to be a minimum of four tape recorders or crosstalk from the bugs as listened to. That is an impossibility of there is to be no detection inside the Watergate as the rooms get daily attention.

The only purposes served by the walkie-talkies is communication during the job at the offices. There was no other reason to have them there. Not internal commincation, for the men were within whisper-distance of each other. Therefore, it would seem obvious that they were working under instructions, and were in contact with more than one point, or why more than one set? With one found in Hunt's desk, there seems to be a valid reason for thinking he may have been one. I'd be willing to consider that Caddy was naother, at his apartment. Bearing on this, the story of how he came into it makes no sense. These Cubans are nuts, and so are their CIA mentors of Bay of Pigs days, but not that nutty. There was a halfhour before the warning time allegedly set between Barker and his wife at the time they were caught. The descriptions of the office make in impossible for the planned work, whatever it was, to have been completed in that time. Panels out and all that, gathering up everything and getting away and to a phone. The ,ore likely possibility is that Caddy, admittedly home and awake from midnight on, heard everything transpiring.

The day the story broke, I believed Barker had to be the "Bernie" of the Bay of Pigs, as some who will receive this may recall. As soon as Hunt's nameappeared, it seemed likely that he would be FrankBender. Soon two other bits on information appeared, and rather fast. First Barker was identified as one of the men in the control part of Bay of Pigs, but not the top man. Then Hunt was described as having a part superior to Barker. Tehn both were identified with "code" names that appear nowehere in any of the Bay of Pigs literature. Too fast, too pat. There is a "Macho" (and the meaning seems consistent with Barker's character), but he was a priest. There was no "Eduardo" (but Hunt's initial is "E"). None of the descriptions of Hunt's functions for the White House staff make sense. No "consultant" could have been used for such short periods of time on declassification (and he has no reported expertise on Southeast Asia) or narcotics problems. Nor is it reasonable he would be assigned to and officed in Colson's office while working <u>only</u> for others.

Here the special new government semantics may be of interest. One example is the careful but low-key statement uninterpreted in all reporting I've seen that he also worked for others and on other jobs. Without enough time for <u>either</u> of the two alleged? Then what everybody

in Ken Clawson's pseudo-denial, the us of "at" instead of "for" in describing Hunt's employment in relationship with the White House. This simple things was so effective it folled the sharpest reporters. When I spotted this in something in the Star that came to me late (I don't get the Star out in the country) and discussed it with Bob Woddward, he denied it, and he is sharp. Yet in going over a few clips last night, I find that it actually appears in a story Woodward wrote, I think 6/20. This kind of evasiveness can't be of no significance and can betoken the hiding of guilty knowledge. Ken Clawson was a good reporter and he knows how to be precise. When he is imprecise it is not the kind of thing that can safely be attributed to carelessness. When to this is added all the other incredibility of the statement, it has to be thought about. Like the lie about the end of Hunt's work on March 29 while he was actually working until fired. He was paid quarterly. So, he was last paid March 29, no more. And the phone operators, with more than one reporter, promptly put a call to him by name to a phone still assigned to him. In two cases, the reporter got Colson's secretary or was referred to her. In one case he got Colson, who said you've gotta be outta your mind when asked a question and hung up. This is not a description of terminated services. In fact, they were not terminated until after the story broke, if I correctly recall the reporting. (I'm doing allthis from recollection and in haste, so be alert to possible error in recall.)

Back to code names. As I said, I im ediately decided Barker had to be "Bernie" of the Bay Pigs and Hunt bender. I can onlt wonder why reporters like Tad Szulc, who will never forget his own Bay Pigs days and suppression, could not question or carry this further but without question accepted the Eduardo-Macho bit. All accounts agree that Hunt was over Barker and both were at the top. Noe it turns out that a reportedly positive identification of Barker was made, and by a man in a position to know, Torriente of the Ft. Jackson group. The Miami reporting I now have quotes him as saying there is no question but that Barker is Bernie and thus Huntbecomes Bender. What is most incredible about this is that with their records in the Bay of Pigs, which included making national policy on the spot and committing the White House and national policy to what they knew definitely was contrary to national policy and against the expressed position of the White House, they would ever again have any connection with any White House. I think this is a measure of the kidn of people now in the White House. They make LeMay and Goldwater look like doves of peace. This motley crew almost started World War III and did deceive their soldiers, deliberately, into believing they would have air support knowing it had been forbidden. They had the zany hope, which may not have originated with them, given what the CIA itself has done, that they could ring the Whit House nose and actually get us involved in an invasion.

Ft Jackson again. The Lopez whose name appeared at the Watergate was not there. He is quoted explicitly in the Miami papers as saying he was at work at his own gas station all the time, that customers and employees will prove it, and besides, he is my age, a bit too old for this kind of adventure. From this it is not unreasonable to wonder if someone wasn't setting up covers and a false lead on detection, which seems to have worked.

The FBI's handling of Hunt is not typical. Nor is their inability to find him unless he had the most skilled assistance. They had to know immediately who he is. Their files, infact, have to show it,which makes one wonder about security clearances. And interpretations of security investigations.

Several hours later. This business of some Cubans wrongly pinpointing others of supposedly the same political persuasion is strange to those who have had no knowledge of their unique manifestations of belief. We know, for example, that FBI Informant NO T-5 informed on his friends and could not have informed on his political enemies because there were none then. We know that he was incredulous when the Secret Service could not have been more indifferent to his offer to become their informant. And we also know that he was not dependany upon any income from finking. He he is regarded as a man of principle amd so regards himself. To me these are the dedicated wrong. Their strongly-held beliefs are often based upon fictions of their own creation. Consistent with this is the record of Bender and Narker prior to the Bay of Pigs. On the one had they knew they were lying when they promised that air support had been promised. On the other hand they knew that without it there would be a massacre. But they were willing to lead their supposed friends into a massacre and to them it was high principle. The same dedication led them to incarcerate those whose sin was asking questions about the insanities that were officially retailed. To doubt lies, to question stupidities, was disloyalty not loyalty, and for this there need be no law or justice, force sufficing. So they were on the bestial side to the doubters.

And who was in charge, who responsible? Bender and Bernie. If my belief is correct, this means the Hunt of the sadist novels and the Barker of the wierd adventures. By the time the invasion drew near, they were so thoroughly discredited within the CIA that it did not trust them to knock heads together to organize the Cuban Revolutionary Council, to be first the government in Exile and then de facto. When the major factions were brought together in Miami the month before the invasion, Bender and Barker didn t figure in it at all. Yet having been discredited, they remained trusted and in Hunt's case at least continued in CIA employment and trust for 8 more years. The involvement of McCord in these activities is little more than hinted at as fact. If I were to guess, it would be as a communications expert, if nothing else, at Swan Island. Possibly, however, in training to use radios. It is of more than slight interest that Fiorini was more than a soldier, but again, only hints of a CIA connection not as an invader only. That the likes of these would ever be trusted by the Nixon Administration or the Republican hierarchy is a more than adequate description of both and of the prevalent reasoning and belief.

The Ameritas involvement was passed off rather quickly and I suggest on the basis of less than really adequate explanation. Here I not two things only, and there are more, like the remaining mystery of the Chilean source of that $89,000. God old ITT? Not, certainly, Gineen-level, not American administrative level no matter how low.

Initial reporting was that one William Alexander (part Cuban despite name) was president, and his prompt resignation, we are told, was only verbal. A new concept of corporate re ponsibility and functioning. He, too, Bay of Pigs. It got little press attention, but he flew supplies.Now all such flying was CIA and I believe all was arranged by Doubl-Chek. So, parenthetically, this suggests Arthur Hanes, who was lawyer for Doubl-Chek and later engaged in so enormous a conflict on interest with his client, Ray, in the King assassination that any kind of honest trial was immediately impossible. Violation of the canons is beyond question.

The second is Suarez. Early reporting identified him as Miguel R. PH almost immediately asked could there be a relationship with Miguel Augustin. And soon enough, without any giving of the middle name, reporting changed to Miguel A. Now if Miguel Augustion of relative of Miguel Augustion, with him and Fiorini at least we have association with the kind of fictitious Oswald reporting that ran the FBI on perhaps more wild-goose chases than any other single think at the time of the assassination, when investigation should have been more closely focused. No matter how much manpower was devoted to the investigation, there was so many lead that even with intentions for serious investigation of viable leads there couldn't have been enough agents. Here bear in mind for the future all the other cubans who did the same think, the two more conspicuous being Penabaz and Bringuier, the former and extremist-right Dade county leader, I think then chairman, and the latter active with others of exactly the same stripe and activity in Cuban-Americans for Nixon-Agnew.

What this also means is that of those involved in the caper, from what is know, not only were these CIA types and far-right types, but all but possibly Gonzalez were more than mere revanchists. Martinez continued in raids and other adventures, all the plotting continued, and even Meguel Augustin took addition military training of anti-Castro nature during 1962, of which we know and in which, from its reports, the FBI had no interest even though it violated law, the neutrality act, and probably violated the firearms act.

From this and more we have the FBI loaded with the kind of info it can safely give out and quite uncharacteristically it is not leaking. What we have it knows we have, yet even that it isn t giving even to its friends.

Regardless of the sponsorship of and interests in this caper, it is clear that it is not close to the usual revanchist Cuban job. It is not made up of rank-and-file revenge-seekers. It is composed almost exclusively from what we know of the least scrupulous. Such are not gathered together by happenstance.

As of today there are many points from which possibly productive conjectures can be begun. Hunt and what I've noted of him earlier are obvious. I think the foregoing and the exceptional amount of costly legal talent outside the grand-jury room when he, a lawyer, was in it, clue him in as a key part, an important person with an important function in it, not merely the lawyer called upon in emergency and distress. He lacks court-room and criminal

law experience. He thus is not the lawyer of choice if criminal defense was the primary objective of either the Unts or the McCords or the Barkers with $89,000, etc. If, as they claim to, they had made prior arrangements for the contingency of getting caught and their major concern was legal defense, he is one of the last lawyers they'd have arranged with. Consistent with this is the use by each of the five immediately involved of obviously fake identifications, at least some knowing certainly it would be prejudicial. The one purpose this served was delay, to give others time while the police were wasting it. I do not believe this is consistent with an ordinary adventure, a usual bugging operation, even an extraordinary robbery of the party files. Certainly McCord and Barker can qualify as pros in this area, if not those they served or were associated with. This is not mere zany Cuban thinking, and McCord is an experienced security man. His license and his future, for example, are at stake in this thing, and what he did was further jeopardize it, beyonf the possibility where any political influence could undo it, if there was any possibility. So I think it can fairly be considered that he also engaged in a stall, knowing that it could mean only a slight delay. If nothing else, he had to know the checking of the walkie-talkies could be fast and lead to him. So could prints.

They were all agreed on giving somebody time, and willing to sacrifice obvious personal interest to do it. This is out of the ordinary. And aside from sponsorship and involvements, there is another common denominator, CIA. I can't believe this was their trick or that if they were up to such a thing they'd use such wild-men.

Of every name I can recall that has been mentioned to date, there is but one without reported CIA connection, Caddy. Therefore, I ask you all to be alert to anything at all about him, particularly pointing toward or linking to CIA. The inference already exists in his counsel, Hogan and Hartson, who have done CIA jobs. I haven't taken the time to trace the firms of the other lawyers mentioned. I don't think the names of all have been reported. I remember one story merely referring to their number, four, in itself extra-ordinary, four lawyers attending a fifth who is before the grand-jury? The interpretations can be many and some are obvious. One I'd like kept in mind is differentinterests to be served. The CIA could have been concerned enough with no further involvement than that of the past. But this doesn't have to be the limit.

McCord doesn't have F. Lee Bailey money. The custom among lawyers of his reputation is to take profitless cases intermittently for the publicity value. They can't advertise and this becomes their advertising for the profitable cases, Bailey has just had one, and he has another, without fee, in court, the federal case against Garrison. I suggest this means he is not on the market for another freebee at this moment, especially because he is to represent McCord alone.

The Bennett p.r. firm has a CIA past. Radio Free Cuba admitted. Now there are other strange things about this firm from the reporting. Hunt's value was in delivering Julie Nixon Eisenhower for a government-sponsored public service announcement? Is one to assume that if it were this important the Secretary of HEW couldn't or wouldn't ask Nixon, esp. with the insiders upon whom he could draw at the White House. (And what makes this non-political in an election year?) Now according to the reporting, these things are true: if this contract poops out, Bennett is in trouble. But Bennett has only $100,000 riding on it. Aside from all the other expenses and salaries, if Hunt were to work but 200 days on their work, this would cost them aside from taxes and overhead, $25,000, or 1/4 of the sum the loss of which can collapse them. Impossible! If we don't know who their clients are, we do know that such an office can't be operated if the loss of a contract like this could ruin it, especially not with such superdooper White House and other connections. So, there has to be more to the Bennett operation that has been reported or meets the eye or they are all Cuban exiles! In this connection, what has escaped any press questioning of which I'm aware is that Caddy was in the office working for General Foods. Now if they have a General Foods account and General Foods has enough interest to have a staff lawyer working out of and actually quartered in that office, this is no putka account, not the kind that in itself would permit loss of a $100,000 deal to be ruinous. There remains the question why Caddy was working from Bennett's office for General Food, which certainly must have other Washington offices-and interests. Then tere is the question of what Caddy was doing for General Foods in that office, if anything.

Without any effort to question whether there can be connection with this and other not-daily news occurrences, like the Harper et al munitions arrests and that possible remininscence of JFK assassination/investigation involvement, there are many and I think for the most part obvious questions from what we know and omissions in what we can known. I regard some aspects of Tad Szulc's reporting as exceptional for one of his competence and experience, and all I can suggest is the Times hangup from Bay of Pigs suppression days, when it had to know the story had been reported everywhere except in the U.S.

There are also a few mysteries not part of the central remaining ones.

Edward Bennett Williams has filed suit from the Democratic National Committee. It immediately occurred to me that the purpose was not to collect $1,000,000, which is highly improbable, but to be able to take depositions. What did not then occur to me but must have to Williams and all the politicos-lawyers involved is the impossibility of taking depositions from probable defendants in a criminal action, all of whom are in jail at the time suit is files (unless McCord was then out).

He can't have these in mind. There is the possibility the suit was brought for publicity value and as leverage. But I think the depositions can't be dismissed out of hand. He could not hppe to get prominent members of the Republican hierarchy on the stand. He might find enough value in their fighting to stay off it. But I think underlying this is that he and the Democrats know more than has been said and that his and their real objectives may be to depose others, Caddy and Hunt among the more obvious; Colson;Bennett et al. These can take the fifth, which would be as good as saying whatever they can for the Democrats. In short, a case of Republican involvement which may not be actuality on the high level can be built from ntohign except their refusal and the involvement of others who are Republicans and will be inferred to be serving only Republican causes. There isn't enough refugee money to finance this kind of thing, if there was the interest. I am still inclined to keep Cuban-Americans for Nixon-Agnew in mind, and of the people I can identify with it, not one is capable of something like this. That bunch includes many who did get their wealth out of Cuban, and some of the richer have been involved in some of the wilder operations, like Cuban Power. Remember those attacks on ships? Nothing is beyond them.

And I do know that Williams does want to depose witnesses. It is no game.

In your thinking, I suggest keeping this generality in mind:too many miscues to the press appeared too soon. Code names, wrong organixations, enough to discourage independent search but not enough to spell things out. I am suggesting a skilled hand in the background, not a Cuban exile ineptness.

Somebody was caught entirely by surprize. Ron Ziegler's comment, although prepared, was too carefless. Things happened too fast for elemental precautions to be take, like cleansing Hunt's Ex. Off. Bldg desk-in Colson's office, yet. The stuff there would never have been caught there. Among the possible interpretations is that Hunt didn't even dare call anyone there. Certainly he did not go there himself when nothing physically prevented it. It is unlikely he was not one of the first to know. He could have gone there in the wee small hours, gotten rid of the incriminating evidence and left empty-handed, as whatever guards who saw him would have sworn. But he didn't dare, for reasons we don't know. With his experience, I believe not thinking of it can be discounted. A spook doesn't spend a lifetime in spookery and forget the primer.

In a sense, what I am saying is that nothin g that comes out really makes sense the way it has come out.

This has taken more time that I should have spent on it. I wanted to provoke some thinking and laertness and I wanted to make some notes for myself for the future. I will now note a few odds and ends on which I have such things as little, extraneous squibs.

Probanly unrelated, but the removal of the AEC's top security man was on 6/14, very close. I suspect he milked this dangerous money because he was being blackmailed, not wild living, loose women, bangtails, etc.

Fiorini is also a Birch Society organizer. What is exceptional is that with Jack Anderson willing to come forward to bail him out, he hasn't done the obvious, gone to his own file s and repeated the delightful tale of the Castro gambling commissar when Fiorini has been identified as such in the papers. He has a file on F, who is a source for him.

I do not intend this as a subtlety, with sinister interpretations to be read into it. I go no further than saying itnis atypical and I can't figure it.

When Hunt first disappeared, Bennet said he had gone to NYV on " ap project we have going there." Another reports says a TV project. Bow this, certainly, wasn't the Julie project, nor has anyone in TV or service industries had a word to say about any such project. There hasn't even been a leak on it. I wonder if this is the truth, therefore.

In addition to the walkie-talkies these five had an undescribed minerature receiver when caught. Not for listening to the latest Cuban music. The only seeming purpose would be to listen to a frequence other than those of the walkie-talkies.

There was a lag of more than 1 1/2 hours between the first discovery of the taping of the latches and the second. Bears on sixth-man conjecture above.

When Hunt was asked by Bennett if he was connected with the caper, the reply directly quoted from Bennett (Star 6/21) is "I was nowwhere near that place Saturday". Saturday doesn't belong, and whether or not he was near the place does not relate to involvement.

The same paper quotes DC police as hinting at a major break in the case from pcutures then already sent to Miami, to whom not specified. Nor is the nature of the picturesm but mug shots weren't needed in Miami. (Unless for McCord and Hunt). No follow-up.

Reporting of the Hunt involvement and the "Eduardo" bum steer are simultaneous, 6/20. Immediately accompanied by the inadequate Bay Pigs connection which seems to have succeeded in discouraging press from following it up.

Hunt is supposed to have flown to Miami and met with a "wealthy real estate man." Whether or not Suarez, he is from this not separate, for the then reporting has this real estate man present when Hunt handed his card to Barker. He had pencilled his home phone number "on the back and gave him [Barker] oral instructions [sic] to call if Barker ever needed him." This cards seems not to have been reported in the papers as found on Barker but the W.H. notation is in two address books? For post-midnight doings? Hunt wouldn't ell the Times is he knew Barker.

With McCord allegedly supervising RNC security, including guards, two immediately told the Star they had no knowledge of him. Both can't be true and I see no reason for the gards to lie. Nor for the Republicans to hire two other outfits for their security of this was really McCord's function.

Exposed Minox film was taken, no Minox camera, and no reporting of what the developed film showed.

The address Barker gave on arrest is that of Suarez' office, not his own or Suarez' homes.

Whatever means Barket has, he had from the past or came into recently, not from his employment by Marx as a real estate agent (Miami News, 6/19).

If the official nenials of the compilation of purge lists by the Special Analysis Division are correct, there seems to have been some (consistent) fascist moonlighting. But there are enough quotes (DC News 6.23 to cast doubt on official denial.

E.B.Williams has "strong indication" of pre-6/17 electronic surveillance DNC hq.

Hunt's desk supposedly held a "partially-dismantled" bug. Is he that expert he repairs? Or was he supervising and defentive one given him? News 6/30 describes as "similar to" those taken at Watergate.

McCord's RNC-licensed walkie-talkies not suitable for convention floor use (Star 6/23).

Seeming Bennett inconsistency (Star 6/23), Huny, "Bennett said [he] refused to give his employer any explanation for leaving town."And he went to NYC to work on firm project? Or if after NYC, he couldn't say to avoid embarrassing family? And this the Hunt of whom no time records were available in Bennett's office because "Hunt kept his own time sheets"- at $125 a day? But the Star seems to have been able to hold this down.

No less incredible is Bennett's claim that paychecks would mean nothing because Hunt did most of his W.H. work on weekends! As a consultant on either declassification or narcotics? Consulting his navel, perhaps?

Julie was gotten for the non-commercial commercial, according to Bennett, because "IN the public's mind she's a schoolteacher". She taught school for two days!

This is the story reporting two different Who's Who bios and omits all the real leads they could hold, one of which I know. Or any further checking in "Contemporary Authors".

Bennett acknowledged (Post 6/22) "that he was ~~xxxxxx~~ the principal organizer of dummy campaign committees to raise money for the re-election of President Nixon". Just a remarkable coincidence, and this, too, was moonlighting, not part of the regular offi e work. Like Hunt's weekends at the White House?

Despite that imminent disaster with the loss of the HEW contract, this story represents - and Bernstein couldn't have invented it, that General Foods is "a major client of the firm." Thus Caddy shared the same office with Hunt, naturally. And the corrupt practises act was by-passed. (Good Old Checkers!)

Not since Alice in Wonderland!

Suggestions, comments, disagreements, info solicited.

HW